

Remarks:

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's confirmation of receipt of Applicant's claim for priority and certified priority document under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a) - (d).

Reconsideration of the application, as amended herein, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 3 and 5 - 14 are presently pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 4 has been canceled. New claim 14 has been added. Applicant gratefully acknowledges that claims 4 - 8, 12 and 13 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten to include all the limitations of the claims from which those claims depend.

In item 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1 and 9 - 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 5,706,278 to Robillard et al. ("**ROBILLARD**") .

In item 4 of the Office Action, claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over **ROBILLARD** in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,963,868 TO Takayama et al ("**TAKAYAMA**") and U. S. Patent No. 4,015,252 to Symanski ("**SYMANSKI**") .

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections, as applied to the amended claims.

More particularly, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of former, allowable, claim 4, and, thus, is in condition for allowance, as indicated in item 5 of the Office Action. Claim 4 has been canceled. All dependent claims now depend, ultimately from independent claim 1 (formerly, allowable claim 4) and, thus, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Additionally, new claim 14 includes the limitations of former claims 1 and 5, which combination was additionally indicated to be allowable in item 5 of the Office Action. As such, it is believed that independent claim 14 is in condition for immediate allowance.

It is accordingly believed that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest the features of claims 1 and 14. Claims 1 and 14 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1.

Appl. No. 09/897,279
Response Dated August 22, 2005
Responsive to Office Action of July 12, 2005

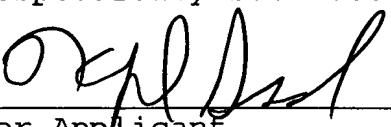
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 3 and 5 - 13 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



For Applicant

Kerry P. Sisselman
Reg. No. 37,237

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Lerner and Greenberg, P.A.
Post Office Box 2480
Hollywood, FL 33022-2480
Tel: (954) 925-1100
Fax: (954) 925-1101